



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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**THREE EL PASO BUSINESSMEN INDICTED AND ARRESTED FOR CONSPIRACY
TO PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT KICKBACK**

(El Paso, Texas) U.S. Attorney **Johnny Sutton** announced today that **Pedro Marquez, Juan Badillo and Martin Barquin**, all of El Paso, Texas, were indicted and arrested on charges of conspiring to provide a government contract kickback. The defendants will make their initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Richard Mesa at 2:00pm this afternoon.

The indictment alleges that in October 1997, Defendant **Marquez**, as the purchasing agent for a business which had a U.S. Department of Defense prime contract to supply military chemical and biological protective suits, approached Defendants **Badillo** and **Barquin** at their garment cutting business and solicited a kickback in exchange for awarding the cutting business a subcontract to the U. S. Department of Defense prime contract.

According to the indictment, **Marquez** initially demanded that **Badillo** and **Barquin** pay him a kickback of ten cents per garment in exchange for awarding of the cutting contract, but after realizing the magnitude of the cutting project, changed his kickback demand from ten cents per garment to ten percent of the billing the subcontractors submitted to the prime contractor for payment of their cutting services. The total amount of the kickbacks was in excess of \$143,000.00 over a period of almost 5 years.

"This case is an unfortunate example of individuals abusing their position and enriching themselves at the public's expense. The U.S. Attorney's office is committed to prosecuting individuals who commit white collar crimes," stated **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton**.

This case was investigated by the El Paso Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the U. S. Department of Defense and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorney Debra Kanof.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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